



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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February 11, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. 130-3-1

Subject: AGN - Reminder of Biosecurity Measures

Purpose: To remind employees of the need to routinely practice biosecurity measures while providing technical assistance to our customers.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

Background: Oklahoma NRCS has released two documents to NRCS Offices over the past 2 years on this subject. They are: Oklahoma Bulletin No. OK130-1-1, dated July 25, 2001, and General Manual (GM) Amendment OK-5, Section 130, dated April 18, 2002 (attached).

As is mentioned in the General Manual Amendment, the West Nile Virus did find its way to several Oklahoma Counties in the summer of 2002. The latest biosecurity concern involving agriculture is Exotic Newcastle Disease. It has been found in recent months in California and Nevada. It is extremely contagious and affects all types of domestic and wild birds and poultry.

It is imperative that our people be constantly reminded and vigilant in our efforts to not spread but help contain these diseases when they occur. Each staff member must have a working knowledge of NRCS policy on this subject and mentally review it before entering a producer's property for "any" type of technical assistance.

Employees are to review the biosecurity levels described in the attached GM Amendment to determine the requirements necessary to visit a farm or ranch.

As a final thought, although not "required" by policy, it would be a good idea to document, in planning and assistance notes, your discussions with producers and measures taken concerning biosecurity.

Staff is also encouraged to make this subject at least a semiannual "safety item" discussion at staff meetings.

Filing Instructions: A copy of this bulletin and attachments shall be placed in the glove compartment of every Oklahoma NRCS vehicle.

/s/ Les Conner acting for:

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

Attachment

Dist: AO